

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-56. (cancelled)

57. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

applying a controlled amount of RF thermal energy *in vivo* to vascularized, densely collagenous tissue of at least a portion of a ligament, tendon or joint capsular tissue ~~which interconnects~~ naturally joining portions of a body to thermally modify the tissue to achieve a controlled modification of a geometry of the tissue.

58. (previously presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising heating the tissue with the applied thermal energy to a temperature in the range of about 45 to 75°C.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising heating the tissue with the applied thermal energy to a temperature in the range of about 50 to 70°C.

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising heating the tissue with the applied thermal energy to a temperature in the range of about 55 to 65°C.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 57 wherein applying includes advancing a probe having an electrode to a surgical site containing the tissue.

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 further comprising deflecting a distal end of the probe.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising moving a distal end of the probe over the tissue in painting strokes.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 57 wherein the tissue comprises at least a portion of a medial side ligament of a patella.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 57 wherein the tissue comprises at least a portion of a patella tendon allograft.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 57 wherein modifying the geometry of the tissue includes increasing a cross-sectional diameter of collagen fibrils of the tissue and decreasing a longitudinal length of collagen protein molecules of the tissue.

67. (new) The method of claim 57 further comprising the step of:
insulating at least some tissue near the vascularized, densely collagenous tissue of at least a portion of a ligament, tendon or joint capsular tissue.